

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the newly cited U.S. patent 5,281,115 (Timuska). However, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims recite several significant features which are not taught or suggested by this reference, as follows:

1. All of the claims recite that the discharge-side angular ball bearing is “held immovably” within a discharge side bearing casing or in the thrust direction. The Examiner considers the angular thrust ball bearing 24 of the Timuska to be the discharge side angular ball bearing. However, the ball bearing 24 of Timuska is simply described as abutting a part 32 of the casing so as to be capable of taking up forces in the positive direction (col. 3, lines 21-23). On the other hand, neither the specification nor the drawings teach or suggest that the main thrust bearing 24 cannot move in the “negative” direction, i.e., in a direction away from the abutting part 32 of the casing. Thus, there is no basis in the reference for concluding that the thrust ball bearing 24 is held immovably within a bearing casing or held immovably in the thrust direction.

2. All of the claims recite that the suction side ball bearing is an “angular ball bearing.” The Examiner has alleged that the thrust balancing bearing 26 is an angular ball bearing but has not explained the basis in the reference for this allegation. In fact, there is no description in Timuska that the thrust balancing bearing 26 is an angular ball bearing, nor is this illustrated in the figures. Indeed, *it is significant that the thrust bearing 24 is illustrated as an angular ball bearing but the thrust balancing bearing 26 is not.* This clearly indicates an intention that the thrust balancing bearing 26 not be an angular ball bearing.

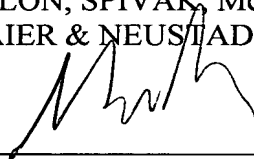
3. Claim 3 recites a lubricative coating applied to an inner periphery surface of the suction side bearing casing. The Examiner alleges that this is clearly shown in Figure 1, but Applicant fails to find any description or illustration of such a coating in the reference.

4. Claims 5 and 8 further recite means for lubricating at least one of the thrust bearings using the compressed fluid. The Examiner alleges that this is clearly shown in Figure 1 but has provided no further explanation. Applicant is unable to find any description or illustration in Timuska of means for lubricating a bearing with the compressed fluid. For example, the compressed fluid reaches the sealed chamber 44 in Timuska via the two-way valve 48 and the pipe 50, but there is no further description of the compressed fluid being conveyed to the thrust balance bearing 26 or the thrust bearing 24.

In summary, Claims 1-9 recite a number of significant features which are not taught or suggested by Timuska. The outstanding rejection is therefore believed to be improper and its withdrawal is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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